

Jacob Yoder House
3/4 mile northwest of Lobachsville
Pike Township
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1036

HABS
PA
6-LOBACHVILLE,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

JACOB YODER HOUSE

Address: 3/4 mile northwest of Lobachsville, Pike township,
Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner
and Occupant: George Goetz, Box 293, R.D. #1, Fleetwood, Pa.

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance: An example of an early nineteenth century
Pennsylvania German farmhouse.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Yoder house was built in 1829 for Jacob and Mary Yoder, the names and date seen in a date stone on the house. The house has been extended at the back to connect with a small kitchen or smokehouse.

Sources of information: P. C. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading, Pennsylvania: Reading Eagle Press, 1926), pp. 81-84.

Richard S. Montgomery, "Houses of the Oley Valley," The Dutchman, Vol. VI, No. 3 (Winter, 1954-55), pp. 16-26.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The Yoder house is a two-story stone farmhouse of five bays, a gable roof, and end chimneys, of the period. There is a small, one-story frame porch at the front door which may have been added at a later date. Some changes have been made: The extension connecting the house to a stone cabin at the rear, and modern kitchen and bathroom installations.

The house is in excellent condition, and is well maintained by the present owner.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

The foundations and walls are of limestone masonry, the porch on the south front is frame construction. Two chimneys appear at the gable ends.

The door and windows across the front are not symmetrical, the central door being off center and not lined up with the central window of the second floor.

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The doorways and windows are very simple in treatment having simple box frames. The doors and windows have been replaced in the nineteenth century. The windows are double hung with two panes per sash. There are three-panel shutters at the first floor windows.

The roof is a simple gable with a modern dormer on the rear and a simple boxed cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior

The floor plan consists of two rooms on either side of a central stair hall for the main block, with a kitchen and dining room at the back connecting the stone cabin. The second floor is divided similarly with the addition of a bathroom.

The stairway is very simple in treatment. The floors are of wide boards, the walls and ceiling are plastered. There is a chair rail in the hall and the two front rooms, and some original hardware.

D. Site

The house faces south and is enclosed by a white rail fence. There is a well-kept yard surrounding the house and several small stone buildings to the rear. Besides the stone cabin now connected to the house, there is another small, two-story stone house to the northeast of the main house which probably predates it. Some of these smaller buildings are roofed in the red "Oley Valley" tile.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
University of Pennsylvania
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